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Bangalore Mirror

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Even as HC asks BBMP where are more than half of the toilets that it claims it has built, civic agency rushes on with Rs 231-lakh tender to operate and maintain 169 e-toilets for 3 years

IF LOOS COULD KILL...

Waterless, ill-maintained public toilets can actually come quite close to doing that

Y Maheswara Reddy
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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to float a tender inviting bidders for the maintenance of e-toilets and modular toilets in the city. It is, however, quite evident that not all citizens are satisfied with the maintenance of the existing public toilets that are under the BBMP's purview. The Karnataka High Court, while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), recently said that around 60 percent of the public toilets that the BBMP claims are in the city are not traceable and the addresses of some of the others are not correct.

Meanwhile, the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department has gone ahead and floated a tender on Tuesday inviting proposals (technical and financial) to appoint an agency for operations and maintenance of toilets in the BBMP limits. The BBMP has fixed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

KAUSHIK JN

"I found the maintenance of a few public toilets is very poor. I was also told that a few toilets have no water – Ramakanth, environmentalist

3 THINGS TO DO

01 First show

Step into a world of cinema magic at the grand opening of the Bengaluru International Short Film Festival (BISFF). Experience the captivating tales of Antaranga, Change, How are you? Neela Neela Theera, Thunai, and Boodhi, are all under one roof. **Where: Suchitra Film Society When: August 10. 5.30 pm**

02 Cinematic marvel

Don't miss the extraordinary cinematic experience of the Academy Award-nominated film 'Writing with Fire,' a mesmerising exploration of truth, justice, and the essence of power. Through the captivating lens of an all-women's newsroom, this documentary takes you on an unforgettable journey. **Where: Bangalore International Centre; When: August 10, 6.30 pm**

03 Musical odyssey

Experience unparalleled enchantment during a musical odyssey, as the pulsating beats of the Sound of Magique festival set Bengaluru ablaze. This four-day fest will awaken your senses and move your soul. **Where: Magique When: August 11- 14, 7 pm**

Unmasking the answer script outsourcing scam

41 BBA scripts were taken for 'writing answers at home' by ex-students

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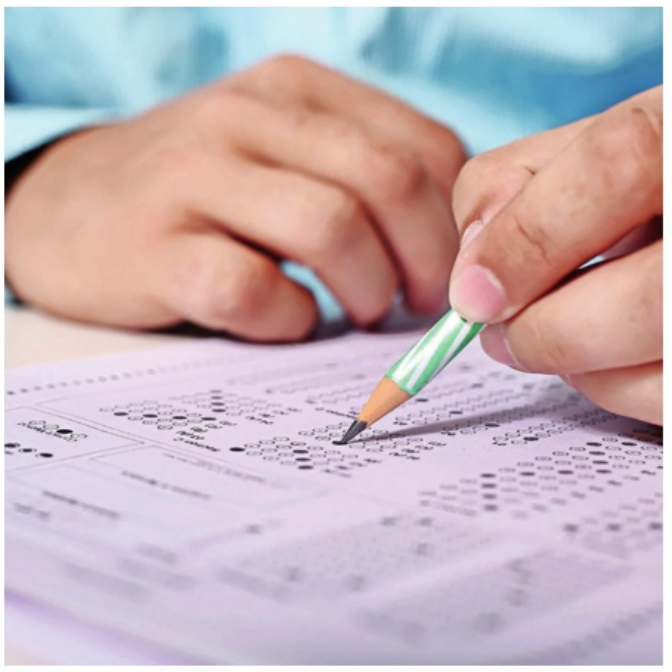
The practice of outsourcing jobs is common, but the education sector is witnessing a surprising trend – the 'outsourcing' of exam writing. Bangalore University (BU) recently uncovered a startling incident where 41 answer scripts from the fifth semester BBA course were taken home for 'writing answers at home' by ex-students. These scripts were then filled with answers and subsequently returned to the exam hall for evaluation.

Dr SM Jayakar, the Vice-Chancellor of BU, stated, "We came across this issue while scanning the exam answer scripts. We have lodged a police complaint against a few contract workers allegedly involved and intend to conduct further investigation." The modus operandi involved deliberately leaving 41 answer scripts blank during the exam.

These scripts were surreptitiously taken to an undisclosed location where proficient students provided the answers. Subsequently, the scripts were brought back to the exam hall and scanned. Some of the contract staff suspected of involvement are evading authorities.

C Srinivas, the Registrar (Evaluation), explained, "We had introduced the digitalisation of answer scripts to enhance transparency. However, we have now identified instances of malpractice and are determined to take stringent action in response." This elaborate scam was uncovered when officials noticed specific answer scripts were digitised twice – first with blank pages and then with written answers. CCTV footage revealed the movement of the scripts, leading the Vice-Chancellor to file a complaint with the Jnanabhrati police.



CCTV footage revealed the movement of scripts, leading the Vice- Chancellor to file a complaint with the police

Institutional development plans envision holistic growth

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced comprehensive guidelines for the Institutional Development Plan (IDP), an ambitious initiative set to revolutionise higher education establishments. UGC Chairman, Prof Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, stressed that IDPs transcend mere individual strategies; they are meticulously crafted to encompass multifaceted interfaces, ensuring a holistic approach to address various institutional perspectives. Prof Kumar stated, "The Institutional Development Plan acts as a guiding compass for higher education institutions, directing them towards a collective vision of academic and institutional advancement." He further highlighted the significance of collaborative efforts, stating, "The learnings from three years of implementing the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) underscore the value of shared expertise and synergy among diverse stakeholders."

The NEP 2020 plays a pivotal role in strategic planning, involving students, faculty teams, board members, and other stakeholders. Prof Kumar stressed, "IDP for Higher Educational Institutions will act as a guiding framework, promoting a unified and coherent approach to institutional growth." Officials stress the 63-page UGC document goes beyond rhetoric, serving as a road map for informed decision-making across critical areas.

> **"We came across this issue while scanning the answer scripts. We have lodged a complaint against alleged contract workers**
> – Dr SM Jayakar, Vice-Chancellor

These encompass infrastructure enhancements, augmented student support systems, addressing academic gaps, and more. IDP's multi- year scope empowers institutions to align strategies with long-term objectives, ensuring a seamless connection with the broader national policy landscape. This flexibility facilitates adaptability to a dynamic and purposeful future. Prof Kumar also underscored IDP's role in preventing policy compartmentalising,

Beauty paradox: hidden struggles of 5,000 beauticians

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At a glance, it may seem that over 5,000 beauticians are thriving without obstacles. However, this surface appearance belies a deeper truth. Despite maintaining a courageous front, their progress has been curtailed due to insufficient government encouragement and support.

While there are thousands of beauticians in Karnataka, around 5,000 have registered with the Karnataka branch of the All India Hair and Beauty Association (AIHBA). It is believed that many beauticians have either closed their shops or plan to switch to other professions due to financial problems.

"Beauticians suffered greatly during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many had to close beauty parlours due to an inability to pay rent because of low footfalls. While the state government provided financial assistance to other professionals, including those at hair cutting salons, no help was extended to beauticians during the pandemic," said Ganga Sridhar, president of AIBHA Karnataka.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, the President of AIHBA Karnataka, Ganga Sridhar, has sought assistance for the beauticians, most of whom are women, and whose full potential remains untapped. "In seeking women's empowerment, AIHBA has urged

the government to simplify and streamline the licensing procedure for parlours, rather than forcing women owners to navigate complex regulations," said Ganga Sridhar in the letter.

Other demands include equal access to government schemes for women's empowerment, a free government insurance scheme for all members, access to loans and subsidies for women-run parlours to encourage business growth, opportunities for skill upgrading, pensions for women who have dedicated their lives to the industry.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror over the phone, Dr Sangeetha Chauhan, President of AIBHA, said that over one lakh beauty parlours are owned by women beauticians across the country. "There is no government support for women beauticians, who are on par with physiotherapists. I want the government to treat beauty parlours as cottage industries," said Dr Sangeetha.

Meanwhile, AIHBA is organising a mega event on August 10. The event will also focus on the challenges faced by association members.

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Waste verbal duel leaves BBMP workers scarred

BBMP to lodge police complaint against resident for being rude with pourakarmikas

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Creating awareness about the importance of waste segregation at the source is crucial

Do you know that there are a few educated people adamant about violating Solid Waste Management norms in the city? It may be a bit difficult to believe, but it's true. An unfortunate incident took place on Wednesday morning in the RR Nagar Zone.

The accused is an employee of a reputed company and a resident of Nanjundeshwara Residency RR-4, located on the 10th Cross Road of BHEL Layout, Kenchenahalli in Raja Rajeswari Nagar. The victims are hapless pourakarmikas, supervisors, BBMP Marshals, and the assistant executive engineer of the solid waste management department. Their crime is simply asking the resident to adhere to Solid Waste Management norms.

It all began when a BBMP Marshal objected to Satish, a resident of Nanjundeshwara Residency RR-4, handing mixed waste to pourakarmikas who collect garbage door to door. Allegedly, Satish, without remorse, behaved rudely towards the BBMP Marshal and pourakarmikas.

With no other option, the BBMP Marshal informed the assistant executive engineer of the solid waste management department. The assistant executive engineer, over the phone, attempted to educate Satish, but the latter was reportedly rude.

"This is the second time the resident has handed mixed waste to pourakarmikas. Earlier, Nanjundeshwara Residency RR-4 Residents' Welfare Association president Subrahmanya K paid Rs 5,000 as a penalty.

Now, we have imposed a penalty of Rs 15,000 for violating the Solid Waste Management norms a second time. The resident was not in the mood to listen to me. He shouted at me and used discreditable words during our argument," said the assistant executive engineer.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror over the phone, Subrahmanya K, president of Nanjundeshwara Residency RR-4 Residents' Welfare Association, said that he would take measures to raise awareness among the residents about the importance of segregating waste at the source.

> **"The resident was not in a mood to listen to me. He shouted at me and used discreditable words during our argument** – Assistant Executive Engineer

When contacted, Satish initially refused to comment, but later admitted that he argued with the BBMP Marshal and others.

Meanwhile, BBMP Zonal Commissioner (RR Nagar) B Reddy Shankar Babu said that pourakarmikas, supervisors, BBMP Marshals, and engineers of solid waste management deserve dignity and respect. He said, "No one has the right to embarrass them. I have directed the assistant executive engineer to file a complaint with RR Nagar police. The objective of lodging a complaint is to convey a strong message to all apartments. If the police refuse to lodge a complaint, I instruct the assistant executive engineer to lodge a complaint online."

CSR initiative to facilitate employment for 60 disabled

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Motorised scooter attachment that transforms a wheelchair into a bike

The CSR initiative of a corporate, in partnership with Give Foundation and NeoMotion, an IIT-incubated startup specialising mobility devices for individuals with locomotive disabilities, has successfully facilitated the employment of 60 beneficiaries from Bengaluru through Zomato.

Siddarth Daga, Co-founder of NeoMotion, told Bangalore Mirror that the startup's project NeoBolt – a motorised scooter attachment that transforms a wheelchair into a bike – empowers those with locomotive disabilities to lead an independent lifestyle. "There is a lot of dependency on parents or friends for wheelchairs to be folded and put into other modes of transport," he said, pointing to the lack of inclusive infrastructure, leading to such dependency.

Last year, NeoMotion launched the 'Livelihood on Wheels' initiative in collaboration with Zomato, providing unemployed individuals with disabilities the opportunity to work as food delivery agents using NeoBolt. "In the last year, we have enabled over 100 wheelchair users to make deliveries. Close to 27,000 orders on Zomato have been delivered across 11 cities in India, including Bengaluru," Daga said. The startup identifies disabled individuals without a steady source of income between the ages of 18 and 45, diagnosed with a locomotive disability – caused by polio, spinal cord injuries, or amputation, for onboarding. The end goal of the project is to ensure that the candidate has earned Rs 50,000 within a span of six months.

Addressing potential challenges faced by candidates during deliveries, Daga said, "During the pilot project, we noticed that customers are largely supportive upon learning that the delivery agent is a wheelchair user. They often come down to collect their order if the building lacks a lift for door delivery." However, he also mentioned instances where customers have insisted on door delivery and questioned the employment choice of the wheelchair user. He further added that Zomato now notifies customers when the delivery agent is a wheelchair user, requesting them to provide the necessary assistance.

Daga highlighted the potential for data collection through this initiative. "Every order acts as a data point. The delivery agent can be asked a simple yes or no question after they have completed their service – was the building disabled-friendly? Then this data can be provided to the relevant authorities, from the government to various accessibility campaigns," he said. Currently, the number of food delivery partners in the country averages around 5 lakh. The disabled population constitutes 1.6% of the total.

Somedutta Chatterjee from Give Foundation said, "Through this initiative, thousands of individuals with loco-motor disabilities will not only gain the ability to move independently but also establish market linkages via partnerships like Zomato, offering them opportunities for dignified livelihood generation.

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Long neglect
Marathahalli

The entrance to Spice Garden Layout at Munnekolala/ Marathahalli has been neglected for several years, resulting in slushy and unusable road conditions during the rainy season.

Littered lanes
Doddabommasandra

The road in Ward 10, Doddabommasandra, remains consistently littered, resulting in a foul-smelling and unpleasant environment.

Trashy trails
Vasanth Nagar

In Ward 93, Vasanth Nagar, the roads are not being adequately swept, leaving trash scattered on the streets.

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Metro work: Some services curtailed

In order to extend metro services beyond Baiyappanahalli to Krishnarajapura, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had curtailed the train services till August 9 from 5-7 am between Baiyappanahalli Terminal to Swami Vivekananda Road Metro Station as well as KR Puram and Whitefield (Kadugodi) stations. Now, the curtailment has been extended till August 11. During this period, from 5 am to 7 am, trains will be available between Swami Vivekananda Road and Kengeri metro stations. To carry out signalling and other works train services on August 14 will be operated only between Baiyappanahalli and Vijayanagar metro stations from 5-7 am. — BMB

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Woman dupes helpful auto driver

A woman made a fraudulent payment via UPI, defrauding a disabled autorickshaw driver of Rs 23,400.

Shivakumar VH, 58, was accosted by a woman when he was on the way to meet a friend. She requested a lift from him to a location close to where he had to meet his friend. He consented to drop her off.

The auto driver, who lost his right leg to gangrene during the pandemic, was speaking on the phone to a friend who owed him money at around 9:45 am. He requested his friend to pay him when he got close to Hanumanthnagar's PES College. A 20-something woman came up to him and requested him to take her close to PES College. He agreed.

During the journey, the woman overheard his chat and requested his UPI app number. He gave her the number thinking that she wanted it to pay for the auto fare. The driver met his friend and collected the money. The woman approached him and requested for the money saying she needed it to pay her college tuition. She promised to promptly pay him through the app.

The driver offered to assist, but required her to make an online money transfer. The woman consented and even displayed a confirmation message showing a payment transfer of Rs 23,400, at which point the driver gave her the money.

But when he double-checked his bank account, he realised he hadn't got the money. He could not chase the woman. He then went ahead and reported the woman to the police. A case was later filed against her. — BMB

All ears to sort out ORR woes

Traffic, law & order police discuss ways to make life of ORR companies' employees easier

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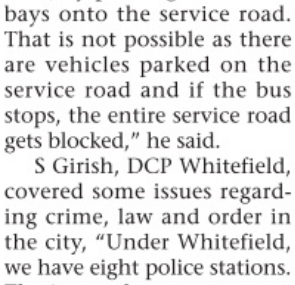

At a meeting conducted with the outer ring companies association (ORCA) about grievances of the employees of the various companies in the area, the police presented their side of the IT corridor story. Commissioner of police, Dayananda B, stressed on the need for a robust public transport system. "Total democratisation of public spaces, accessibility and equitable use is necessary. Traffic is one of the areas that needs attention. Unfortunately opinion makers on traffic are people who travel in SUVs, who are the main cause of the traffic congestion. Most vulnerable person is the pedestrian as their voice is not heard by anybody," he said.

He said they are working with the government and have offered lots of solutions with regard to parking, which includes smart parking systems. He added that there are a few roads in the city where the buses are banned.

MN Anuchet, joint commissioner of police, said this was the time to encourage carpooling because that would reduce the load of vehicles on the outer ring road. "One request is that most of the cabs and buses are from IT companies. The pickup and drop has to be better. Don't keep them waiting on the roads, as this affects the traffic on the service road. We want to push all the buses on the service road, by pushing all the bus bays onto the service road. That is not possible as there are vehicles parked on the service road and if the bus stops, the entire service road gets blocked," he said.

S Girish, DCP Whitefield, covered some issues regarding crime, law and order in the city, "Under Whitefield, we have eight police stations. The issues that are concerning us are cyber related issues. Apart from this, there are vehicle thefts, issues of women safety and domestic violence, cheating cases, road rages, laptop missing cases. There are cases where the maids come to work at homes and go missing. Most of them stay in PGs, where there might not be good security. There are many laptop thefts happening." He added that more than 90% of the cyber crime cases victims are software engineers, "Unfortunately most of the victims are from the IT field. Especially in OTP fraud, part time job fraud, OLX frauds, KYC frauds and advance payments."

Talking about preventive measures, he said, "We have been using the Smart ITMS for years and have improved it over the years. We have vehicle checkpoints, CCTV cameras, surveillance and supervision, and public governance meetings. 35,000 CCTV cameras have been installed and we need more of this."

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Karnataka reported 5.64 lakh lightning strikes in 7 months

Government launches Damini lightning App which provides real-time lightning warnings

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Karnataka has reported a total of 5,64,778 lightning strikes in the first seven months. This data offers insight into the frequency of lightning incidents within the state during the specified timeframe. The highest number of lightning strikes occurred during the pre-monsoon showers. In May, a staggering 3,54,067 lightning strikes were recorded, followed by 1,28,793 strikes in April. However, as the monsoon season commenced in June, the number of lightning strikes decreased to 37,279 and further dwindled to 4,392 in July. Interestingly, February had no reported lightning strikes, while January, typically a period of fewer thunderstorms, unexpectedly registered 53 such strikes.

In comparison to other states in India, Maharashtra stands out with the highest number of reported lightning strikes for a single month. Specifically, Maharashtra documented an astonishing 3,90,240 lightning strikes in May, highlighting the substantial electrical activity during that particular period.

Turning our attention to lightning-related fatalities, a total of 295 deaths were attributed to lightning strikes in Karnataka between 2019 and 2021. In 2019, 99 deaths were reported, followed by a decrease to 75 deaths in 2020. However, there was a notable increase in lightning-related deaths in 2021, with 121 fatalities recorded. Among all states and union territories, Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of lightning-related deaths during this three-year span. The cumulative count of lightning deaths in Madhya Pradesh for 2019, 2020, and 2021 was 1325, underscoring the urgency of implementing lightning safety measures in the region. Regarding this data, an official stated, "When comparing Karnataka's lightning-related deaths to the overall numbers in India, it becomes clear that Karnataka accounted for a relatively small percentage of the total fatalities. Specifically, the lightning-related deaths in Karnataka constituted approximately 3.42% of the total deaths recorded across India during the same period."

Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a Lok Sabha reply said, "In collaboration with India Meteorological Department (IMD), we have come up with a plan to provide forecasts and warnings for thunderstorms and associated weather phenomena well in advance. These forecasts are extended up to five days before the anticipated weather event, enabling individuals and authorities to take necessary precautions. The warnings are disseminated at both the meteorological sub-divisional and district levels, ensuring that localized information reaches the public effectively. To further bolster lightning safety efforts, the Ministry, in conjunction with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, has established a sophisticated lightning location network. This network is strategically situated across 83 locations throughout the country, allowing for the precise detection and location of lightning strikes. The central processor, situated at IITM, processes is identified with a remarkable accuracy of less than 500 meters. The information derived from this network is shared with IMD, various State Governments, and other stakeholders, serving as a critical resource for nowcasting purposes."

Choubey highlighted the Damini Lightning app, developed by IITM-Pune in 2020, as a tangible result of these initiatives. The app monitors lightning activity across India and promptly alerts users if lightning is detected within a radius of 20 or 40 kilometres. The app's lightning warnings are for 40 miutes, contributig to public safety.

Light rains in city

The India Meteorological Department has predicted a partly cloudy sky with scattered, very light to moderate rainfall likely to persist over the BBMP area for the next two days. The city's maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 30 and 20 degrees Celsius, respectively. Moreover, there are widespread expectations of very light to moderate rainfall over the Coastal Karnataka districts, and isolated to scattered very light to moderate rainfall is anticipated over the Malnad and both south and north interior districts. Thunderstorms with lightning are predicted at isolated locations across the state.

Meanwhile, Namma Karnataka Weather's tweets suggest, "The South West Monsoon is currently experiencing a mild phase, resulting in reduced rainfall along the Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka. Rainfall is expected to regain strength after August 21st. Over the past three days, rainfall has been sporadic and limited to parts of North East, North, CBD, and North East Bengaluru, while the South, East, and South East regions have remained dry. Currently, relative humidity is moderately high, providing favourable conditions for light to moderate showers in and around the city. However, widespread precipitation might not occur again."

'Case in court, but BBMP has no proper report'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rs 231.19 lakh for the maintenance of 169 e-toilets for three years. It has also fixed Rs 31 lakh for the maintenance of 34 modular toilets for a period of two years. The last date for receiving queries is August 16. The date of opening technical proposals is August 25.

"We have floated the tender for the maintenance of modular toilets and e-toilets as the contract for the maintenance of these toilets has ended," said BBMP Solid Waste Management executive engineer.

Meanwhile, residents and activists want to remind the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department of the existing toilets and urge officials to take up measures for their maintenance and to construct toilets wherever it is required.

NS Ramakanth, an environmentalist, told BM the condition of some public toilets is far from satisfactory. "Though I have not visited any public toilets recently, I found the maintenance of a few public toilets is very poor. I was also told that a few toilets have no water," said Ramakanth.

It may be recalled that the Aam Aadmi Party had launched a public toilet programme a few years ago at Cox Town and other areas. The AAP demanded the BBMP maintain the public toilets properly for the benefit of poor families who have no toilet facilities.

"In the name of e toilets, corruption makes a big difference for local MLAs and BBMP engineers. The BBMP has failed Bengalureans completely by being a complete failure in providing hygienic toilets and for being irresponsible and negligent in submitting the report although it has been under trial in the high court for the past five years. They have been condemned under the title *"Toilets have vanished! Who are the toilet thieves?" said Mohan Dasari of Aam Aadmi Party.

Demanding that the BBMP maintain public toilets, Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president NS Ravi said that most of the public toilets lack maintenance. "It is the responsibility of the BBMP to keep the public toilets clean and neat. Unhygienic conditions at the public toilets will affect the health of people who use these toilets," Ravi said.

'Discrimination against non-MBBS teachers by NMC'

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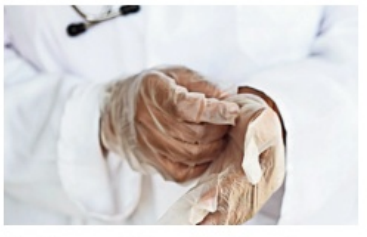
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has released the order of the revised Competency-Based Medical Education Curriculum (CBME) Regulations for the year 2023, however, some of the revisions made in the order have not gone down well with the National MSc Medical Teachers Associations (NMMTA) as the revised regulation only allows teachers with an MBBS degree to become examiners and the NMMTA alleged that NMC has transformed into an exclusive club of individuals nurturing prejudice and animosity towards non MBBS teachers.

According to the members of the NMMTA, in the draft released by NMC on June 23rd, the order did not mention that the examiners will be only those with postgraduate degrees followed by MBBS. Hence while submitting the feedback, many did not see it as a concern. However, during the official order released on August 1, it was said, "Person appointed as an examiner in the particular subject must have at least four years of total teaching experience as Assistant Professor after obtaining postgraduate degree following MBBS, in the subject in a college affiliated to a recognised medical college (by UGMEB of NMC)."

Professors of MSc and PhD who teach non-clinical subjects in medical colleges did not appreciate it and called it a biased move. "The first and second-year medical subjects are anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology, and pharmacology. The total teaching hour for first-year MBBS students is 1521 hours while the clinical exposure is only 27 hours. So here the teaching staff plays a crucial role and we are eligible to be the examiners. Till early 2023 year, we were considered for the examination. But suddenly now we have been deprived of it. When we can teach the students and are the assistant professors we should also be allowed to be the examiners. This is discrimination to the next level." said a Former General Secretary member from NMMTA.



Medicos and Non-Medicos face discrimination by NMC

Another member from NMMTA who was formerly a professor in a government medical college in Karnataka said, "The NMC cannot disentitle a teacher who has the eligibility to teach and to be the examiner. This discrimination is resulting in a war between the medicos and non-medicos. Like an MBBS or MD graduate, even MSc and PhD graduates study and work hard. When there are practical examinations held, the internal and external examiners should go from one institute to another. But now with this release, there will be less staff of examiners as well. And any new guidelines issued by NMC should be put in for feedback. However, the draft did not specify that only MBBS degree holders can be the examiners. But during the official order, it was specifically mentioned, thereby mistreating one class of teachers."

In this part, the association pointed out that in the past regulations, NMC had also reduced the percentage of non-MBBS faculty intake. "The faculty intake was reduced from 50% to 15% in biochemistry and zero per cent for microbiology and pharmacology. The government states that the PG seats have increased in these subjects, however, there still remains a shortage." said an assistant professor from a medical college. Currently NMMTA is registered with 2286 memebers from 27 states and UT.

Harassment at workplace: Panels & cops fail to help

Case of woman failing to get justice after harassment shows state of such cases

| Ahna Prakash
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In just six months of 2023, Karnataka has recorded 9,270 cases of crime against women, in which more than 3,000 cases are for outraging the modesty of a woman, under section 354 of Indian Penal Code.

Despite increasing cases of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and molestation, victims said that the redressal committees are not showing any alacrity.

A woman Bangalore Mirror spoke to narrated the ordeal she had to undergo after facing sexual harassment at the workplace. The woman said she had moved to Bengaluru from Pune, for the post of HR manager in February 2022. At the end of the year, her senior allegedly started sexually harassing her but at that time the victim got scared and didn't do anything.

After two months of facing sexual harassment, she approached the internal complaints committee of her office in January 2023. "One of the oldest employees of the company approached me and said that I should not be making a big deal out of it because the man has a wife and family. Later, she talked to the person and he apologised to me in February. After that I didn't want to take any action thinking that now he will not do anything," claims the victim.

However, the alleged accused is said to have made inappropriate remarks in an inebriated state at a company party in March and the victim decided to inform his wife about the harassment.

Victims of harassment face hurdles while filing complaints

"During my appraisal in April, he told everyone that he will be doing a one-to-one meeting. During the meeting he threatened me, and I resigned," she added.

In the resignation letter of the employee which was made available to BM, it was clearly stated that she is resigning because of being sexually harassed by the CEO of the company.

Later, the victim filed an FIR case in Sampigehalli police station and she claims that the police never took the case seriously.

"I was asked by the police that if the incident had happened in January what is the point of reporting so late. They promised in the beginning that action would be taken against the accused, but after a few weeks they didn't even answer my queries on the progress of the case. When I finally told them that they have to take action because the Local Complaints Committee (LCC) has started an investigation, they filed a chargesheet," claimed the victim.

When the victim sent a complaint in the 'She Box', her matter was sent to the LCC of Bengaluru. She claims that the committee continually delayed the trial.

"When they asked the CEO for CCTV camera proof, he refused to give it and they didn't do anything. When I enquired about the progress of the case, they said that what are they supposed to do if the accused is not sending any evidence. They would set up a date to hear the case and because they felt like the accused wasn't prepared enough, they would again give another date," she added.

> **"POSH Act provides a set timeline of six months for the ICC or local authority to complete the process. During this time, they must go through evidence**
>
> –A lawyer

This isn't an isolated incident, many lawyers believe that it is a very common thing for the courts or ad-hoc bodies to give time for evidence and all. Because in the due process of law and as per the principle of natural justice, both the parties should be given equal opportunity to be heard.

"But matters around rape, sexual harassment, murders are very sensitive. The POSH Act provides a set timeline of six months for the ICC or local authority to complete the process. During this time, the authorities have to go through evidence, complaint, reply and witnesses as well. It's not about justice being delayed, it's about ensuring that there is no benefit of doubt given to the accused and if any, it can always be challenged in the court of law," a lawyer told BM.

Flex trouble: HC launches scathing attack on BBMP

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a striking display of administrative inertia, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and elected representatives are in need of making Bengaluru free from the menace of flexes and banners. However, the BBMP and elected representatives, including ministers, are not initiating measures to ensure removal of these eyesores.

The BBMP have identified 59,413 illegal banners and flexes in the city but registered only 40 first information reports (FIRs) and no penalty was imposed on those who put up banners and flexes. It may not be a difficult task for the BBMP authorities to collect penalties from those who put up banners and flexes because they will have the names and designations of those who put them up in the first place. The High Court, responding to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed against the prevalence of illegal banners and flexes, expressed its dissatisfaction with the BBMP's response. Labelling the submitted compliance report as "eyewash," the court criticised the lack of proactive action by the BBMP authorities.

"We are surprised to see the audacity of the officer of the respondent BBMP to submit such a response which shows that except for riding paper horses, the officers of respondent BBMP are not at all interested to initiate any action. It further shows the respondent-BBMP is either completely helpless or is conveniently avoiding taking any action in the matter," the High Court said. The High Court also criticised the shifting of responsibility between officers and the lack of accountability for their failures. There is an absence of clarity on the political affiliations of individuals against whom complaints and FIRs have been lodged. The court demanded transparency on this matter. "In other words, though the numbers of complaints filed and FIRs lodged are furnished, no break up as to the persons against whom such complaints, and FIRs are lodged is mentioned," the HC said. The High Court has directed the BBMP and the State Government to submit their response within three weeks.

Take jumbo numbers with pinch of salt?

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According to the interim report of the recently conducted elephant census in Karnataka, the average number of elephants in the wild has gone up to 6,395. The elephant population estimation report released on Wednesday by Karnataka Forest Minister, Eshwar Khandre, indicates that the state has recorded a rise of approximately 346 individuals since the last census conducted in 2017. The elephant population estimate for 2010 was 5,740; for 2012 it was 6,072; for 2017, it was 6,049.

The top five forest divisions with the highest estimated elephant numbers include Bandipur Tiger Reserve, (mean elephant number is1116), followed by Nagarhole Tiger Reserve (831), BRT Tiger Reserve (619), MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (706), and Bhadra Tiger Reserve (445). The report further highlights that while nearly 82% of the elephant population was found within the protected area (PA) network indicating the importance

of PAs in providing suitable habitats and conservation measures, approximately 18% of the population (nearly 953 elephants), were found outside of the PAs. Moreover, 50% of elephants sighted were adults, nearly 16% were sub-adults, 23.14% were juvenile and 10.60% were calves. The total number of elephants directly counted was 2,219 and the survey was conducted in a 6,104 square kilometre area out of the total 18,975 square kilometre. The area encompassing 32 forest divisions was studied as it is frequently used by elephants.

"The fecundity rate, which is the ratio of calves and adult females, was estimated to be 0.35 per year. It is high for any given population," said the report.

Some conservationists caution that the results of the report cannot be used to arrive at any conclusion. Elephant census is carried out based on three methods -- direct count of elephants, transect survey or the dung count method, and waterhole count method. However, the report does not include population estimation through transect surveys. "It seems the forest department is in a hurry to present numbers. The report lacks population estimation based on transect survey. Also, the census was conducted between May 17 and May 19. Producing results within three months is not advisable and appears to be done in haste," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher, Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

Karnataka Forest Department says it is confident about its estimate, which is primarily based on block count method.

According to Avinash Krishnan, a wildlife conservationist and director, science and conservation at A Rocha India, while the numbers from transect method might sway the final figures only by a small margin, the census must be studied along with population dynamics to get a clearer picture of elephant conservation.

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Govt gets 2 weeks to reply to objections on not providing graveyards in villages

The Karnataka High Court directed the government to get back in two weeks on the objections raised by the petitioners over steps taken as directed by the court to provide land for dignified and traditional cremation/burials across all villages in the state. The court continued to hear a civil contempt petition filed by Muhammad Iqbal, a resident of Bengaluru, on Wednesday. The petitioner had objected to the government's failure to comply with the High Court's earlier judgement to provide necessary land to villages and towns without graveyards in the state.

The division bench of Justices PS Dinesh Kumar and TG Shivashankare Gowda, after hearing the argument for some time, adjourned the proceedings and directed the state to give an explanation within two weeks to the objections raised by the petitioner regarding the compliance report of the government. **PTI**

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I, MOHAMMED KHAMRUDDIN S/o Mohammed Khaja Hussain, R/at No. 22, New No.03, 10th Street, AM Road, Shivaji Nagar, H K P Road, Bangalore-560051, have changed my name to MOHAMMED KHAMARUDDIN vide affidavit dated: 9/8/2023 Before Notary M.Rajendra Bangalore.

I, HARIKRISHNA KOTARI BYNDOOR, Residing at No SF03, Saikam Park Sqaure, Vishweshwaraiah Road, 4th Main, Near RTO Arakere, Bilekahalli, BTM 4th Stage, Bangalore-560076. Have changed My name to HARIKRISHNA KOTARI vide affidavit dated 09/08/2023 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Bhadra Kumar Channasandra Puttaramu S/o Puttaramu Bhadregowda R/at 20, 4th Cross, Behind BTS Garage,Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar Bangalore 560040 have changed my name as Bhadrakumar Om Channasandra Puttaramu in front of Notary Y V Shankar

I, MARY SANDRILA W/o Vijayakumar Rajendran R/at No.S202 OM Sai Regency 29th B Cross, Balaji Layout Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru-560093, have changed my name to MARY SANDRILLA PHILOMEN RAJ vide affidavit dated: 9/8/2023 Before Notary M. Rajendra Bangalore.

I Nityanand Mudaliyar S/O, Venkatesan Kuppuswamy Mudaliyar R/o B1/21 Mira Chs Ltd, Miragaon, Behind Amar Palace, Mira Road East, Mira Bhayander, Thane 401107 Maharashtra have changed my name to Nityanand Venkatesan Mudaliyar.

I, Priyanka Ravi Chandran D/o Ravi Chandran R/o HB0602, Salarpuria Greenage Apartments Hosur Road, Bommanahalli Blr-560068, have changed my name to Priyanka Chandran for all purposes.

I Sreerag S/O, M Janardhanan R/o B-17, Vintage Square, Hagadur Main Road, Opposite To Prestige Ozone Brookbond, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560066 have changed my name to Sreerag Janardhanan.

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I, Pushkal Reddy Kalvolu Sreenivasareddy S/o Sreenivas Reddy Kalvolu Munaswamy Reddy R/at # 9,2nd Floor, 8th Main,4th Block Girinagar, B S K 3rd Stage B'luru 560085 have changed my name to Pushkal Reddy Kalvolu Sreenivas Reddy for all purposes.

I, Sushma T N D/o Nagarajappa T N W/o Praveenkumar S R/o House No 16, 1st Floor, Mount Joy Road, Hanumanth Nagar, Bangalore-560019, have changed my name after marriage to Sushma Praveen

I Masool Mohamad Abid Hussain S/o Mohammed Hayath R/o #203, Visag Emerald 4th Cross, 2nd Main, Rt Nagar Post, B'lore-560032 have changed my name as given name as Mohammed Abid Hussain & Surname as Masool

I, Jayasheela Salvan R/o No.20, 8th main, 6th cross, Lakshmana colony, GM palya Bengaluru 560075 have changed my name to JAYASHEELA SELVAN affidavit Dt.09/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Aditya Shree Vasista Ravindra S/O, Ravindra.s R/o N0-312,2nd A Cross,girinagar 1st Phase, banashankari 3rd Stage, bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to Aditya Srivasista.

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PAIN POINT

Women get far more migraines than men – a neurologist explains why, and what brings relief

A migraine is far more than just a headache – it's a debilitating disorder of the nervous system.

People who have migraines experience severe throbbing or pulsating pain, typically on one side of the head. The pain is often accompanied by nausea, vomiting and extreme sensitivity to light or sound. An attack may last for hours or days, and to ease the suffering, some people spend time isolated in dark, quiet rooms.

About 800 million people worldwide get migraine headaches; in the US alone, about 39 million, or approximately 12% of the population, have them regularly.

And most of these people are women. More than three times as many women as compared to men get migraines. For women ages 18 to 49, migraine is the leading cause of disability throughout the world.

What's more, research shows that women's migraines are more frequent, more disabling and longer-lasting than men's. Women are more likely than men to seek medical care and prescription drugs for migraines. And women who have migraines tend to have more mental health issues, including anxiety and depression.

As a board-certified neurologist who specialises in headache medicine, I find the gender differences in migraines to be fascinating. And some of the reasons why these differences exist may surprise you.

Migraines and hormones

There are several factors behind why men and women experience migraine attacks differently. These include hormones, genetics, how certain genes are activated or deactivated – an area of study called epigenetics – and the environment.

All of these factors play a role in shaping the structure, function and adaptability of the brain when it comes to migraines. The hormones estrogen and progesterone, through different mechanisms, play a role in regulating many biological functions. They affect various chemicals in the brain and may contribute to functional and structural differences in specific brain regions that are involved in the development of migraines. Additionally, sex hormones can quickly change the size of blood vessels, which can predispose people to migraine attacks.

During childhood, both boys and girls have an equal chance of experiencing migraines. It's estimated that about 10% of all children will have them at some point. But when girls reach puberty, their likelihood of getting migraines increases.

That's due to the fluctuating levels of sex hormones, primarily estrogen, associated with puberty – although other hormones, including progesterone, may be involved too.

Some girls have their first migraine around the time of their first menstrual cycle. But migraines are often most common and intense during a woman's reproductive and child-bearing years.

Researchers estimate about 50% to 60% of women with migraines experience menstrual migraines. These migraines typically occur in the days leading up to menstruation or during menstruation itself, when the drop in estrogen levels can trigger migraines. Menstrual migraines can be more severe and last longer than migraines at other times of the month.

A class of medicines that came out in the 1990's – triptans – are commonly used to treat migraines; certain triptans can be used specifically for menstrual migraines. Another category of medications, called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, have also been effective at lessening the discomfort and length of menstrual migraines. So can a variety of birth control methods, which help by keeping hormone levels steady.

Migraine with aura

But women who have migraine with aura, which is a distinct type of migraine, should generally avoid using estrogen containing hormonal contraceptives. The combination can increase the risk of stroke because estrogen can promote the risk of blood clot formation. Birth control options for women with auras include progesterone-only birth control pills, the Depo-Provera shot, and intrauterine devices.

Auras affect about 20% of the people who have migraines. Typically, prior to the migraine, the person most commonly begins to see dark spots and zigzag lines. Less often, about 10% of the time, an inability to speak clearly, or tingling or weakness on one side of the body, also occurs. These symptoms slowly build up, generally last less than an hour before disappearing, and are commonly followed by head pain.

Although these symptoms resemble what happens during a stroke, an aura tends to occur slowly, over minutes – while strokes usually happen instantaneously.

That said, it may be difficult and dangerous for a nonmedical person to try to discern the difference between the two conditions, particularly in the midst of an attack, and determine whether it's a migraine with aura or a stroke. If there is any uncertainty as to what's wrong, a call to 911 is most prudent.

Migraines during pregnancy, menopause

For women who are pregnant, migraines can be particularly debilitating during the first trimester, a time when morning sickness is common, making it difficult to eat, sleep or hydrate. Even worse, missing or skipping any of these things can make migraines more likely.

The good news is that migraines generally tend to lessen in severity and frequency throughout pregnancy. For some women, they disappear, especially as the pregnancy progresses. But then, for those who experienced them during pregnancy, migraines tend to increase after delivery.

This can be due to the decreasing hormone levels, as well as sleep deprivation, stress, dehydration and other environmental factors related to caring for an infant.

Migraine attacks can also increase during perimenopause, a woman's transitional phase to menopause. Again, fluctuating hormone levels, particularly estrogen, trigger them, along with the chronic pain, depression and sleep disturbances that can occur during this time.

But as menopause progresses, migraines generally decline. In some cases, they completely go away. In the meantime, there are treatments that can help lessen both the frequency and severity of migraines throughout menopause, including hormone replacement therapy. Hormone replacement therapy contains female hormones and is used to replace those that your body makes less of leading up to or after menopause.

Men's migraines

The frequency and severity of migraines slightly increase for men in their early 20s. They tend to slow down, peak again around age 50, then slow down or stop altogether. Why this happens is not well understood, although a combination of genetic factors, environmental influences and lifestyle choices may contribute to the rise.

Medical researchers still have more to learn about why women and men get migraines. Bridging the gender gap in migraine research not only empowers women, but it also advances understanding of the condition as a whole and creates a future where migraines are better managed.

Danielle Wilhour, University of Colorado, The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Particulate air pollution growing risk for early CVD death, disability: Study

The impact of particulate matter air pollution on premature cardiovascular diseases (CVD) death and disability is on the rise worldwide, a new study said on Wednesday.

The researchers of the study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association analysed particulate matter (PM) pollution as a risk factor for death and disability using freely available data from 204 countries collected between 1990 and 2019 and detailed in the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study. Previous research established the association of PM pollution to CVD death and disability, however, questions remain about the worldwide impact of this type of pollution and how it has been changing over time, the study authors noted.

"We focused on examining the burden globally because particulate matter pollution is a widespread environmental risk factor that affects all populations worldwide, and understanding its impact on cardiovascular health can help guide public health interventions and policy decisions," said Farshad Farzadfar, MD, MPH, DSc, senior author of the study and a professor of medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iran.

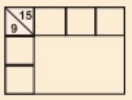
The analysis found that the total number of premature deaths and years of cardiovascular disability from CVD attributable to PM air pollution rose from 2.6 million in 1990 to 3.5 million in 2019, a 31 per cent worldwide increase.

The increase in overall deaths was unevenly distributed, with a 43 per cent increase among men compared to a 28.2 per cent increase among women. Regions with higher socioeconomic conditions had the lowest number of lost years of life due to cardiovascular disease attributed to PM pollution, yet also the highest number of years lived with disability.

—IANS

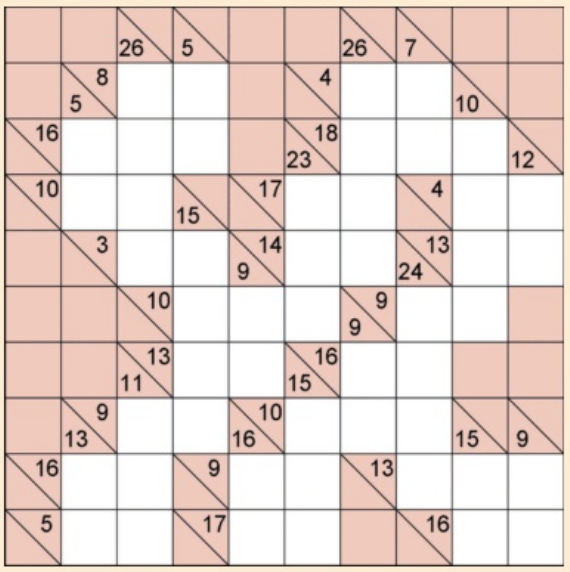
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

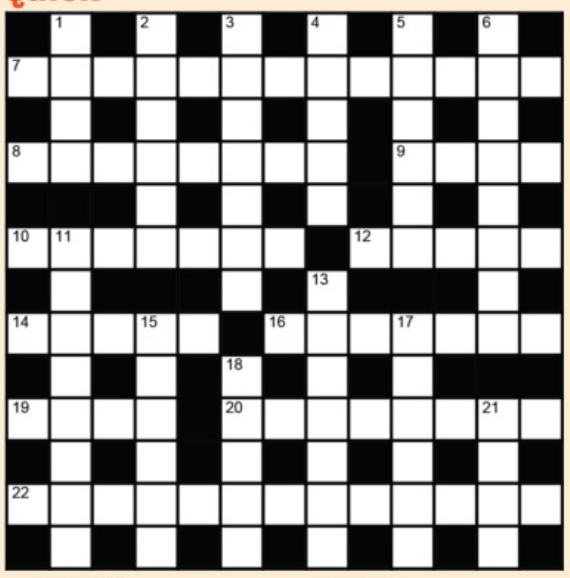


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Immeasurably small (13)
8 Miserable (8)
9 Arabian sultanate (4)
10 Repeat one's written bid to get some job (2-5)
12 Fielding position (3,2)
14 Twenty (5)
16 Bangalore's famous food street (2,5)
19 Autumn in New York (4)
20 Accepted as true (8)
22 Reflecting the most recent developments (5-2-3-3)

DOWN

1 Growl–"rang" anagram? (4)
2 First class (6)
3 In the correct manner? (7)
4 Is ahead in a race? (5)
5 Copenhagen gardens (6)
6 A geometric curve? (8)
11 Allures, beguiles or fascinates (8)
13 Produce eggs (7)
15 Tell a tale (6)
17 Rough or bumpy (6)
18 Detest (5)
21 Goes off the straight and narrow path? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G

RLRBRVBRYI RQ FTRLK BNI DRKNB BNRLKQ SRBNTGB PIRLK BTUF.

Linemaro

Whenever I think of the finer things of life, I think of exotic cars, fine wine and you

Mindchow

Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action

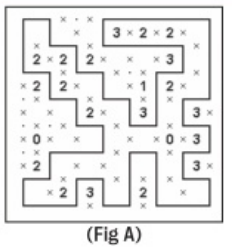
Joke of the day

Real happiness is when you marry a girl for love and find out later she has money

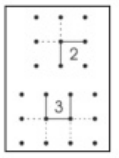
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

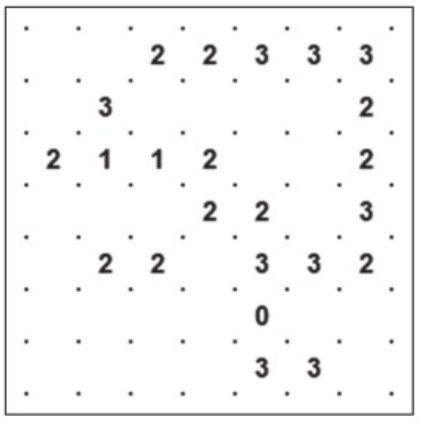


(Fig B) Not Allowed

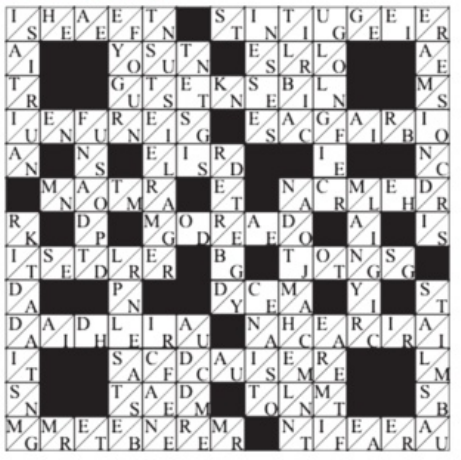
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8	Z			
9				

ACROSS

1 Stark; 6 Me ere;
7 Be gad; 8 Al Zen;
9 Being

DOWN

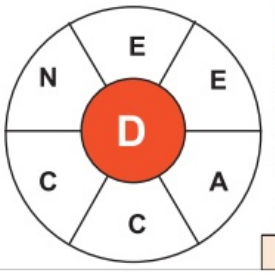
1 Bake B; 2 Ma Zea;
3 Ridge; 4 Singe;
5 Enter

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

0, 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 16, ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3		5			8	4		9
							8	
		8			2	3		7
			2			1	6	
	8						9	
	9	3			7			
9		2	4			8		
	1							
5		6	3			2		4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 20
2 4 5 9

Medium ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 10
3 8 8 9

Hard ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 33
4 7 8 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

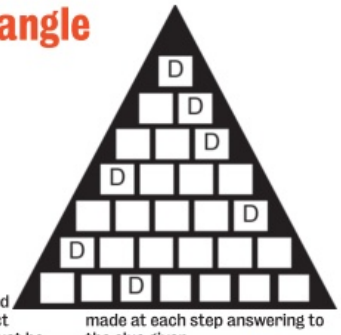
Differences: 1. Phone cord is longer. 2. Paper is missing. 3. Row of buttons is added to phone. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Phone cord is missing. 6. Letter "I" is higher.

Riddler

Just one sharp tooth in his long jaw, Above the neck, within the law. Released from bondage, it flies on down, To separate a king from crown. And when its done, without delay, All its victims head away. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Identity, abbr.
3 Clear, with of
4 Disastrous
5 Bogged down
6 Not so bright
7 Type of exam

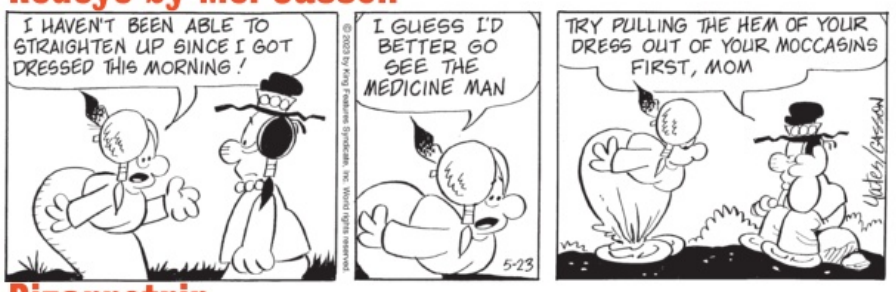


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

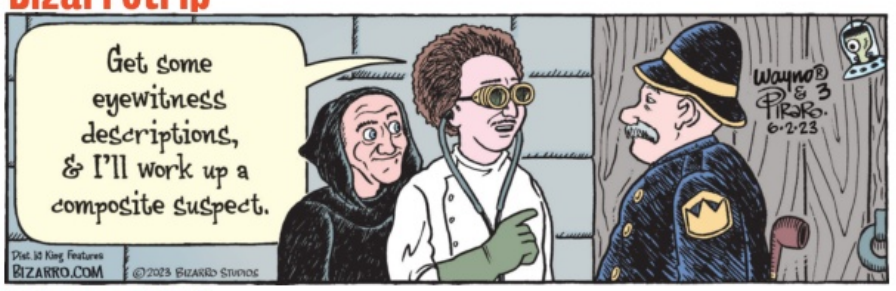
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson


I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STRAIGHTEN UP SINCE I GOT DRESSED THIS MORNING!
I GUESS I'D BETTER GO SEE THE MEDICINE MAN
5-23
TRY PULLING THE HEM OF YOUR DRESS OUT OF YOUR MOCCASINS FIRST, MOM

Bizarrotrip


Get some eyewitness descriptions, & I'll work up a composite suspect.
Wayno & Piraro 6-2-23
Dist. by King Features
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

NOW, REMEMBER TO SWAB THE AREA TWICE A DAY, TWIST THE EARRING A FEW TIMES A DAY...
BUT WASH YOUR HANDS FIRST!
THAT'S... A LOT OF RULES.
WOW.
PIERCED EARS, ROUTINES... YOU'RE BASICALLY AN ADULT. YOU'RE PAYING FOR THIS, RIGHT?
ALRIGHT, PAY UP!
MY MOM IS JOKING. I HAVE NO MONEY. I'M A CHILD.

Crankshaft

ACCORDING TO 'BEAN'S END'... I WROTE MY CHECK TO THEM FOR THE WRONG AMOUNT!
IT'S NOTHING TO PANIC ABOUT, DAD... HOW BIG A DIFFERENCE WAS IT?
I OVERPAID BY ALMOST A THOUSAND DOLLARS!
WHAT!!?
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the Moon, which may give you confidence. You may be able to make important decisions confidently. You are also decisive, so you may seize opportunities without a second thought. You are likely to spend money on family and friends. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments. Job aspirants are likely to find a suitable job with the help of friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may have a dull feeling and may not enjoy your day. You might become a victim of arrogance, which could affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which could hinder your ability to do something creative at work.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness; your loose talking may affect people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless stuff. Your mind may likely work very fast; it is advised to make any important decision with patience.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may make quick decisions that could benefit your day-to-day life. You might make some difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues, leading to potential success. Property-related disputes between siblings may be resolved, and you can also expect some short trips.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness. Your loose talking may affect people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless stuff. Your mind may likely work very fast; it is advised to make any important decisions with patience.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may not feel better; old health issues may arise, which could make you upset. You might take some wrong decisions due to impatience and haste. It is advised to think twice before making any decision. Also, it is advised not to keep money loose, otherwise, you may spend it on buying worthless stuff

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, there may be peace of mind. You may plan to invest capital in your business, increasing liquidity. Earnings could boost your financial health. Romantic moments with your spouse may enhance family harmony. Singles may find a suitable match. Lovebirds may decide to marry. Students will be blessed with good karma.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be very happy as your losses may turn into profits. Your seniors may appreciate your work and be happy. There may be some changes in your place, position, or responsibilities at work, possibly involving promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may now be under control. Singles and lovebirds may make important decisions regarding marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may bring you happiness. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may receive the reciprocation of your hard work. With the assistance of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed tasks. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finances.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull and experience some health issues. It is advised to postpone business investments and avoid starting new ventures. There is a possibility of facing losses, causing your gains to turn into losses.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. Expect new business opportunities that could boost your confidence. You are likely to initiate new innovations with your partner, potentially expanding your business in the near future.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may perform well at work and could anticipate promotions or transfers for financial gains. You might even consider changing your current job. Your relations with your boss could improve now. Chronic health issues may finally be resolved, bringing happiness to your family.

KIDZONE

Shreyanshi Sharma, 6 Years, St Francis Xavier Girls High School

Sadhvi Sanju, 7 Years, The New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
50%(35%)600
0.5(0.35)600
0.5(210)
105

BULL'S EYE
accede, CADENCE, cained, cede, dance, dean, need

FAST FIVE

K	A	R	S	T
E	M	E	E	R
B	A	D	G	E
A	Z	I	N	E
B	E	G	I	N

RIDDLER
A guillotine

QUOTE UNCODE
Initiative is doing the right things without being told.

STRIKE OUT

S	H	A	F	T		S	N	I	G	G	E	R		
I		O	U	T		E	L	O		E				
T		U	T	E	N	S	I	L		M				
I	N	U	R	E	S		S	A	F	A	R	I		
N		N		L	S	D			E			N		
K	P		G	O	R	E	D		A			S		
D	A	H	L	I	A		A	C	A	C	I	A		
D		P		Y	E	A		I				S		
I	S	T	L	E		B		J	O	G	S			
M		A	C	C	U	S	E	R				M		
I		N										E		
G	R	E	E	N	E	R		T	I	A	R	A		

QUICK

G	T		R	L		T		P						
I	N	F	I	N	I	T	E	S	I	M	A	L		
A		P		G		A		V		R				
W	R	E	T	C	H	E	D		O	M	A	N		
		O		T		S		L		B				
S	T	A	T	E	O	F	T	H	E	A	R	T		
N		A		H		A		V		R				
F	A	L	L		B	E	L	I	E	V	E	D		
H		E		A		U		N						
S	C	O	R	E		V	V	P	U	R	A	M		
	N				Y		O				L			
R	E	A	P	P	L	Y		M	I	D	O	N		

MENSA PUZZLE
20: add 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4

SUDOKU

5	7	6	3	8	9	2	1	4
8	1	4	7	2	6	9	3	5
9	3	2	4	5	1	8	7	6
6	9	3	8	1	7	5	4	2
2	8	1	6	4	5	7	9	3
4	5	7	2	9	3	1	6	8
1	4	8	9	6	5	3	2	7
7	2	9	5	3	4	6	8	1
3	6	5	1	7	8	4	2	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Id, Rid, Dire, Mired, Dimmer, Midterm.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 5 + 9 + 4 = 20
8 + 3 + 8 – 9 = 10
Medium
4 x 8 + 7 – 6 = 33
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # 'Formidable talent'
'Heart of Stone', director Tom Harper has called Alia Bhatt a formidable, intelligent, charismatic talent. 'Heart of Stone' marks the 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' actress' debut in Hollywood

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Newcomers' movie

It is heartening to see more newcomers entering Sandalwood to prove their acting skills. The latest are the cast and crew of Kannada movie Barget Basya which is all set to release shortly.

"It is a comedy aimed at conveying a message to youth who suffer from depression when their love fails. I come across many youths who ruin their life after their relationship breaks up. The movie conveys a message to youth not to do that," said Rishi Hiremath.

Rishi Hiremath debuts not only as a hero but also as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. "I got basic training in direction at Navarasa Natana Academy for six months. I also worked as associate director for two Kannada movies that are yet to be released. I am confident of this movie's success at the box office," said Hiremath.

About the specialty of the movie, he said the film has 40 to 60 actresses. "Each actress appears in just one scene and the actor will be scene in each with more than two-three actresses," he said, adding that post-production work of the movie is in progress and arrangements will be made to release this movie shortly.

About father & son

Adding to the long list of Kannada movies about the father-son bond, is the latest film titled Harsha. Shooting for the film is almost completed and its climax is currently being shot.

For the first time, Shankar Ashwath, the son of veteran character actor late Ashwath known for playing a father in several films, is playing a father in this movie. Master Harsha is playing the main character in the movie.

Director Somasekhar wants to convey a message to society, especially to youngsters who fail to reciprocate their parents' love. "As of now, we are busy picturising the climax sequences of this movie. We will commence the post-production work as soon as the shooting of this movie is completed," the director said.

Praful Surendra and Manasa Gowda are the lead pair in the movie. Sangeetha, Maithri, Sunil Banawasi, Sanju, Made Gowda Heggadadevanakote, Manoj Shadkshari, Ravikumar S, Deepa, and Kushi are the important cast in the movie. Samrudhi Raghavendra, in association with Shashidhar M, is bankrolling the movie.

How Sunny lost 3 cars

Actress reveals more about what she has lost to Mumbai's monsoon

Mumbai rains not only bring happiness to the city, but also at times can be a cause of too much pain like traffic jams and flooding. Actress Sunny Leone recently shared her experience with the Mumbai rains. In an exclusive interview with Hindustan Times, the actress revealed that when she first moved to Mumbai city for work, she was shocked to see how much it rains.

She used to live very close to the sea and back then her walls were leaking and a lot of her things caught moisture. But she added that she still loves the rains, only when she's indoors.

Sunny also recalled that thanks to monsoons, three of her cars have been destroyed - two of them happened on the same day and one of them was an 8 seater Mercedes truck. She mentioned that she was crying when this happened as when you buy imported cars in India you have to pay an amazing amount of tax on it. But she's better now, she understands that you can replace materialistic things and is happy that no one was hurt when cars got destroyed. She's become smarter now, she now has an India made truck that is built for the rains. —ETimes

Open to idea of love

Star Vijay Deverakonda, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film 'Kushi', shared that he was initially averse to the idea of love.

At the trailer launch of 'Kushi' in Hyderabad on Wednesday, the actor spoke to a packed house of media and engaged with them as a permanent smile sat on his face throughout the course of the trailer launch.

He said: "Initially, the talk about love and the whole discussion around it used to agitate and annoy me. But, with time, I have grown fond of it. I have realised its importance in our lives, and today I like the discussions around the subject of love."

Vijay was in an amazing mood throughout the trailer launch as he blew kisses on behalf of his co-star in the film, Samantha Ruth Prabhu who couldn't attend the trailer launch due to health reasons.

'Kushi' is an upcoming Indian Telugu-language romantic comedy film written and directed by Shiva Nirvana. — IANS

Megan, the poet

Actress Megan Fox is now making her transition from modeling to acting and now even poetry, as she has said that will be releasing her new poetry compilation titled 'Pretty Boys Are Poisonous'.

Taking to social media, the actress said "I wrote a book" with a broken heart emoji. She revealed the book's cover which features a sort of weird graphic novel type cover with bright red lips and snakes coming out of them. Using her poetic flair, the 37-year old wrote "These poems were written in an attempt to excise the illness that had taken root in me because of my silence. I've spent my entire life keeping the secrets of men, my body aches from carrying the weight of their sins."

"My freedom lives in these pages, and I hope that my words can inspire others to take back their happiness and their identity by using their voice to illuminate what's been buried, but not forgotten, in the darkness."

It is unknown who the actress really plans to expose or what secrets she is planning to reveal, but ever since the 'Me Too' movement in the US, she has been surrounded in a net of controversy for calling Hollywood a 'hedonistic and misogynistic club of black tie thugs.'

She said this in a statement in 2015 citing the reliance of directors and producers on oversexualising and overglamourising women's bodies. — IANS